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PATENT
1/26/02

Attorney Docket No. 039592-5113.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
Neil W. BOAZ *et al.*)
Prior Application No.: 09/288,642) Group Art Unit: 1623
Filed: April 9, 1999) Examiner: R. DEEMIE
For: PREPARATION OF C₁-C₅ ALKYL)
ESTERS OF NITRO OR THIOETHER)
SUBSTITUTED AROMATIC)
CARBOXYLIC ACIDS)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to examination of this application on the merits.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-21 and add new claims 22-35:

22. A process for the preparation of a nitro-substituted aromatic carboxylic acid ester comprising the step of:

reacting a nitro-substituted aryl halide, in the absence of water and oxygen, with carbon monoxide and an alcohol in the presence of a metal catalyst and a proton acceptor to form a corresponding nitro-substituted aromatic carboxylic acid ester,

wherein:

said aryl group of said nitro-substituted aryl halide is a substituted or unsubstituted, monocyclic or polycyclic aryl group or heteroaryl group containing at least one heteroatom of N, O, or S;